



**Minutes of Cullen and Deskford Community Council  
7 pm 10 December 2024**

Present

Colin Burch (Chair)

Lyra Wilson (Vice Chair)

Phil Lovegrove (Treasurer)

Bruce Edelsten (Secretary)

Stewart Wilson (Planning and Resilience)

Les Tarr

Colin Taylor, Chair, Deskford and District Community Association

Jill Sowden, Community Development Officer based at Community Centre

Councillor Donald Gatt

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Apologies
  - John Jappy, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
  - Councillor Theresa Coull
  - Councillor Tracy Coyer
3. Outside Agencies Reports
  - a. Police Scotland reports
    - Community Councils, Moray wide, are not currently receiving reports. It is hoped that, in the future, reports will either be forwarded by area or Moray-wide via the JCC. Agreed to remove from the agenda.
  - b. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
    - John Jappy submitted his report in absentia: This year's Xmas collection will take place as follows: Tuesday 17th Lintmill, Deskford and Birkenbog, Wednesday 18th Portknockie, Thursday 19th Cullen (East side), Friday 20th Cullen (West side). This will also be advertised on social media. We will be continuing to promote festive fire safety over the Christmas period and are still actively recruiting for the station. Two incidents were attended over the past month: one dwelling fire in Buckie and an HGV fire Portsoy. CDCC thanked John for his report
4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 19 November 2024
  - a. Corrections
  - b. Approval: proposed by Les Tarr and seconded by Stewart Wilson
  - c. Matters arising not on agenda - none
5. Chair's report
  - Subsumed within the text
6. Treasurer's Report
  - Phil Lovegrove reported
  - The Admin account has £422.78. Expenditure this month has been £0.99 for iCloud storage.

The Fundraising account has £14172.83. No expenditure this month. Income of £250 from TKCA as loan repayment, and £600 from Rt. Hon. Earl of Seafield. Cullen and Deskford Community Council thanked the Earl for the donation.

This gives us £3118.68 in unallocated funds and £11054.15 in allocated funds.

Breakdown of allocated funds is:

- SSE resilience fund £7176.61 +250
- Town centre regeneration monies of £1578.61
- Community lunches £2298.93

Phil added the change CDCC bank accounts to Virgin Money is progressing. One account has been opened and another has been applied for.

7. Secretary's Report

Subsumed within the text

8. Planning Officer's report

Nothing to report

9. Councillor's reports

Donald Gatt reported – Pretty busy over the past month with the normal run of committees: "Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee", "Strategic Leadership Forum", "Housing and Community Services Committee" amongst others. The Council Leader and I visited the "Citizens Advice Bureau" for a brief on their work. The new Moray Council Chief Executive, Karen Grieve, has been appointed. Briefing on common good funds and trusts. And the usual constituency correspondence.

10. Community Development Officer's report / Three Kings Cullen Association – minutes

Buckie Harbour

Vattenfall's proposals area for Buckie Harbour to support onshore wind turbine deliveries have been tabled and they have been speaking to coastal community councils and development trusts. The extension is to allow wind farm parts to come into Buckie as, without that, the parts would have to come via Inverness and the A96. The proposal could have significant benefits to the community.

Local Place plan – Local Community Plan

Jill has analysed the data from the questionnaire and is developing a Place Plan which was discussed at the meeting. CDCC Planning Officer has been asked to review the Plan before submitting to Moray Council.

11. Deskford and District Community Association – minutes

Colin Taylor reported that the association held their AGM in November and all existing office bearers were re-elected. Very little happening other than a festive tractor run on 23<sup>rd</sup> December which will visit Deskford.

12. Current Business

a. 'Save our Libraries – Moray'

Activity so far includes:

- Leaflet drop round the town – 630 leaflets went out
- Meeting with Karen Adams (and other SNP Moray councillors – this was purely coincidental as they were meeting in Cullen anyway)

- Drafting an open letter to go to Moray Councillors
- Preparation of questionnaire for public meeting which, so far, has generated positive feedback
- Public meeting on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at Community Centre.
- Interaction with the Cullen 'Save The Library' group and the 'Save Moray Libraries' group
- Thanks to Lossiemouth CC for sharing and collaborating with CDCC in enabling a consistency with open letters to Moray Council
- Some confusion over media reports from the Conservative Party that the proposed libraries closures had been axed – a bit of a PR mess.
- The Moray Conservative Group in Moray Council and the Moray Conservatives have issued an apology for this
- All of which has added a new dimension to the campaign
- The next phase will be for the campaign group to get together to look at what they do next in terms of campaigning across Moray
- Lots of media contacts and activity
- It will not be until the middle of January 2025 that Moray Council knows the size of the 2025/26 block grant which will influence the decisions made by Moray Council
- The open letter to councillors is on hold for now but may need to be revisited in the new year.

Thanks to Les Tarr for coordinating all this.

Thanks to Donald Gatt for attending the meeting on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December and explaining the financial situation.

- b. Resilience Planning  
Nothing more to add at present
- c. Local Place Plans – see Jill Sowden's report above
- d. Community Lunches  
Recent community lunch on 27 November was well attended. Next, and last for the year, is on 11 December, with lunches starting again in the new year on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025. These will be held in Hall Church, Cullen and the Deskford halls due to the Cullen community centre getting an upgrade on insulation and various other works.
- e. CullenConnected  
Next issue due in January/February 2025. An application has been made to the Moray Health & Wellbeing fund via TsiMoray. The outcome from that will not be known until mid-January. An offer has been received from a Cullen couple who wish to remain anonymous to produce the next edition as required - a big thank you to them. With the Cullen Volunteer group not producing a 'Cullen Calendar' for 2025, the CDCC have put together a Calendar in collaboration with the newly started Cullen Camera club. Proceeds from the sale of this will go to the Camera club and the CDCC in support of the Cullen Connected newsletter and other community projects if funding bid is successful.
- f. Harbour Advisory Committee 5 December 2024  
Attended by Les Tarr. Heather Cameron apologises for nonattendance but intends attending the next one.
  - Dredging work planned – looking at using digger / excavator and dumping the tailings off the old dump jetty – but permission is required by SEPA
  - Fees likely to go up by 5-8%
  - Grass growing round the slipway and removal requires permission from Marine Scotland or SEPA
  - Various defects have been noted

- g. Aultmore Windfarm – update  
Meeting with representatives of Vattenfall on 2 December. No CDCC members were able to attend, though Jill Sowden & Stan Slater from TKCA were able to attend. Jill reported back as above.
- h. Potholes on access road to beach carpark  
This has been reported to Moray Council.
- i. A96 Corridor Review Notification  
Details of review posted on Facebook. Commenting was turned off after some irrelevant comments. CDCC are happy to share information that is put to us for our attention and, where relevant, share more widely, and may be used by others to pursue as appropriate.
- j. SSEN Community Benefit Fund  
Opens in June 2025 – remove from the agenda until then.
- k. Lawtie Trust – update  
There were some comments on Facebook about other uses for the fund, but Ashley Mowat added, on Facebook, that he has correspondence from earlier discussions about the Lawtie Trust and that changing the wording of the Trust would be an expensive legal process – which is why it hasn't been done. However, the next CullenConnected could contain an invitation to apply to the fund.
- l. Community Council Elections 2025  
To be brought to the attention of residents in the next CullenConnected
- m. JCC – next meeting 13 February 2025
  - a. Transport Forum -No further updates
  - b. Community Council funding – JCC Admin Grant subgroup – subgroup. No further updates at this time.
  - c. Review of Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils  
CDCC met with the CCLO (Community Council Liaison Officer), and we have no concerns regards this going forward to the Community Council elections in September 2025. Some MC Community Councils have concerns in respect of their boundaries due to changes in housing developments. Those have been addressed locally. Remove from agenda.

### 13. AOCB

- a. Traffic issues in the Seatown  
A member of the public wrote to the community council asking that the issue of traffic obstructions in the Seatown be discussed. Some photographs were produced for information. It may be that CDCC could put out a leaflet drop in the Seatown specifically regards keeping roadways clear for service vehicles and, more importantly, for emergency vehicles?  
Agreed to put an article in CullenConnected and, perhaps, prepare a separate leaflet for the Seatown for subsequent distribution, noting that space for emergency vehicles is always required.  
Les Tarr to contact the member of the public and Colin Burch to speak to Diane Anderson, Senior Engineer, Moray Council about situation.
- b. Dog Fouling  
A member of the public wrote to the community council asking who to contact about dog fouling. The chair responded with details on who to contact.
- c. Cycle parking infrastructure  
Sustrans wrote to the community council inviting requests for Cycle Parking stands or shelters, or Repair Stands and/or Pumps. Options might be the east square, on



the viaduct above North Deskford St, or the links. Bid must be submitted by 13 December 2024.

14. Dates for the calendar

15. Dates of next meetings

21 January 2025

18 February 2025

Meeting closed at 20.30